

The cost of calls from prison is inexcusably higher than generally available long-distance service, which can be provided in bulk at less than five cents a minute.

As a matter of justice and compassion for prisoners and their families, their calls should be as cheap as possible. Five cents a minute with no per-call or per-month costs is completely reasonable.

Any additional overhead required by the state for alleged security reasons should be borne by the state - which then has an actual incentive to reduce it. With over two million people incarcerated - the population of a small country - any such costs should be subject to economies of scale.